

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 through 14 are pending in the instant application. Claim 1 is independent and claims 2 through 9 depend from claim 1. Claims 10 is independent and claims 11 through 13 depend from claim 10. Claim 14 is also independent.

The Office Action has expressed that claims 1 through 13 are allowed.

In the Action, claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have amended claim 14 so as to conform to 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 14 are respectfully requested.

In the Action, claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,035,427 to Chiodine (hereinafter "Chiodine"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection on the grounds that Chiodine neither discloses nor suggests all the elements set forth in claim 14.

Claim 14 discloses a weft knit garment. The weft knit garment has a plurality of visually distinct regions and a plurality of visually indistinct regions interspersed with the plurality of visually distinct regions. The visually

indistinct regions are defined by holes in the fabric such that an open fabric effect is achieved with the open fabric effect stable against run-back of the weft knit garment. The fabric is knit from a lightweight yarn to visually look like lace and have substantially similar weight per unit as lace.

Chiodine discloses a rib knitted lace fabric. The rib knitted lace fabric has inner face wales and outer face wales in alternation. A number of loops of the inner face wales are doubled with loops of adjacent wales to form interstices in a first course. A second course is adjacent to the first course. The second course has elastic yarn that is floated across the inner face wales. A third course forms a bottom of the interstices. The third course is adjacent to a fourth course. The fourth course has elastic yarn. The elastic yarn is knit in a number of the inner face wales. The elastic yarn by the knitting operation anchors loops of the fourth course to the third course. At column 3, line 33 through 34, Chiodine discloses that the transferred loops of the yarn anchors the yarn in the fourth course.

Chiodine does not disclose or suggest a plurality of visually indistinct regions defined by holes in the fabric such that an open fabric effect is achieved with the open fabric effect stable against run-back of the weft knit garment.

In contrast, Chiodine discloses that the fourth course merely has elastic yarn being transferred or knit to the number of the inner face wales to anchor loops of the third

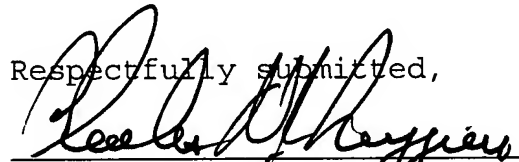
Application Control No.: 10/798,126
Group Art Unit No.: 3765

course to the fourth course, not by any plurality of visually indistinct regions defined by holes in the fabric such that an open fabric effect is achieved with the open fabric effect stable against run-back of the weft knit garment. Chiodine simply does not disclose or suggest any open fabric effect. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 14 are respectfully requested.

Thus claims 1 through 14 are all in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

Dated: September 30, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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